

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT

Hardships in Iraq Spreading To the Middle Class

Economic hardships apparently are taking an increasing toll on middle-class Iraqis. Many professionals, whose salaries are set by the state, are switching jobs to earn more money to cover increased living expenses or attempting to emigrate,

According to Jordanian press, many

Iraqis travelling to Jordan are settling into apartments or

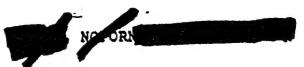
seeking visas to Western countries. Others stay for a short time
to escape economic hardships and then return to Iraq.

COMMENT: The number of Iraqis currently in Jordan is unknown.

Prices in Iraq are so high that it is cheaper for Iraqis to

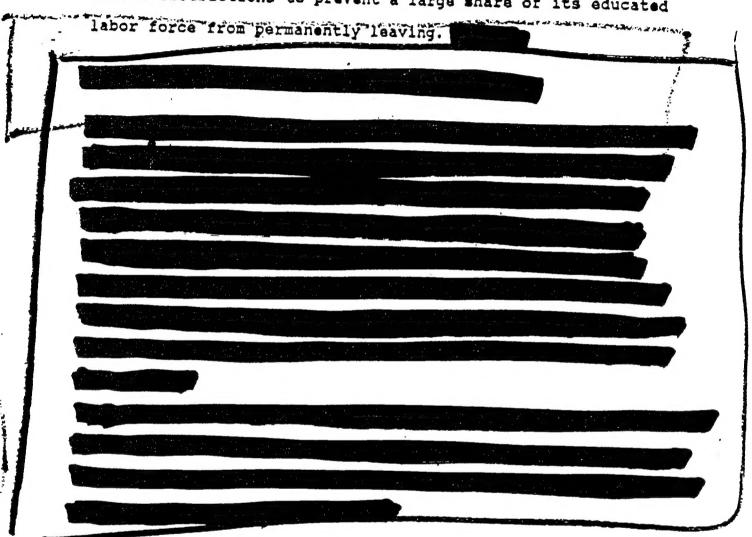
travel to Amman to buy essential consumer goods. Some Iraqis are

also fleeing in anticipation of a US military, attack against





Iraq. Baghdad will probably continue to allow Iraqi citizens to visit Jordan to buy essential consumer goods, but may tighten travel restrictions to prevent a large share of its educated



Kuwait to Resume Oil Exports

Kuwait this week will resume token amounts of crude oil exports for the first time in nearly a year, according to press. Gulf shipping services indicate two tankers capable of carrying about 3.5 million barrels of crude oil are scheduled to load at the Mina As-Ahmadi oil terminal within a few days. Despite this

